

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic)	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels Observed in the Baltic	DATE DISTR.	19 December 1958
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Soviet naval vessels in the Baltic

Att.No.	Vessels
1	In Riga: Submarine [redacted] and a gunboat of the MKL class.
2	In the Baltic: Two possible Soviet submarines with a bulbous stem and a high lean turret; two destroyers; five Type M-40/43-class minesweepers.
3	In the Baltic: Group consisting of two cruisers [redacted] presumably of the SVERDLOV class, and five destroyers,
4	In Ventspils: Submarines [redacted]
5	In the Baltic: Cruiser [redacted] conducting firing exercises and submarine chaser

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Soviet submarine [redacted]

Description: size: 700 to 800 tons; no armament on the upper deck; partly covered with minium.

A Soviet gun boat of the MKL Class [redacted]

Description: very low hull; driven by a high-speed noisy engine; on the foredeck, a built-in tank turret from an army tank with a short-barrel, 40-mm gun for independent firing. Another tank turret and 20-to 30-mm AA guns mounted on the quarter deck.

Comment: [redacted]

It is of interest that a motor gun boat of the MKL Class was observed in Riga. The vessels of this Class which have so far been stationed in Swinemunde, have possibly been transferred to the area of the Eastern Baltic.

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2 (Soviet?) submarines were on course 60° at position 59°25'N/22°20'E. They ran at very low speed in line abreast, keeping a distance of about 500 meters.

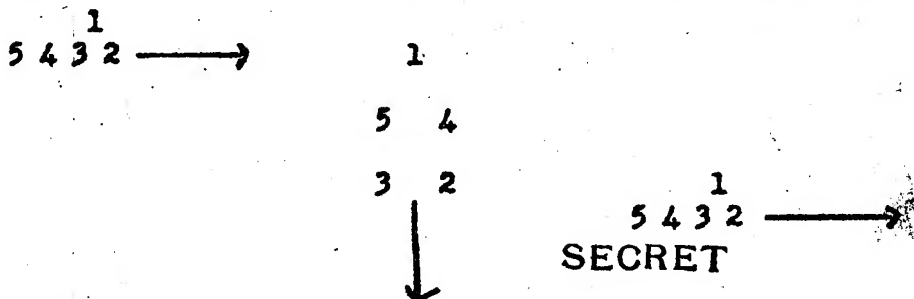
the two submarine submerged within 45 seconds. The submarines had a flush deck, a bulbous stem and a high, lean turret.

2 Soviet destroyers were on course north-northeast at position 59°17'N/22°00'E. They ran at about 30 knots in line ahead, keeping a distance of 500 meters.

Description of the guiding vessel (Tallin):

2 stacks widely spaced; two masts forward of the stacks; straight bridge with big radar cupola or turret; two sets of torpedos between the stacks; continuous deck.

a unit of 5 minesweepers of the former German type M-40/43 was at position 59°08'N/21°47'E. The unit changed its formation several times in 20 minutes. Four vessels ran in line ahead and one vessel stepped out on portside. They ran in the following formations:



Comment. The description of the submarine is insufficient and does not allow an exact identification. The description of the guiding destroyer fits the TALLIN Destroyer. Exercises of minesweepers have repeatedly been reported in this area.

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[redacted]
[redacted] naval vessels was
on southern course at position 57°20'N/20°25'E, making 18 to 20 knots.
The unit consisted of cruisers [redacted] presumably of the
SVERDLOV Class, and 5 destroyers [redacted]
Exercises and signalling could not be observed.
Description: 2 stacks;

Destroyer [redacted] 2 other vessels were apparently of identical type.

Description: 2 stacks, and one mast each forward of each stack;
continuous deck with pronounced sheer.

A light superstructure could be seen aft of the second stack on the
quarterdeck. It consisted of rods fastened lengthwise and crosswise.

[redacted] Comment. It is assumed that the unit was on its way to Pillau.
Destroyers [redacted] presumably of the KOTLIN Class, were observed
for the first time.

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at 4

[redacted]
[redacted] Soviet submarines [redacted] were berthed
in Ventspils Harbor.

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[redacted] Comment. Submarine [redacted] of the CHSH Class has been known
in Ventspils for quite some time; [redacted]
[redacted]

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1. [redacted] a big cruiser [redacted] was observed at position 60°2'N/29°22'E, running in north-south direction. While running in north-south direction, the vessel fired salvos from its heavy guns. Subsequently, it swung to reciprocal course.

The salvos were fired from all turrets at intervals of 13 seconds. Targets and hits could [redacted]

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Later, the vessels disappeared in a white very light smoke screen. Heavy-caliber guns also fired from the shore. Bearings taken from the discharges and the smoke:

- a. Battery located from position 60°1,7'N/29°3,5'E true course 127° and 123°.
- b. The same discharge marks from position 60°1,7'N/29°13,5'E; located true course 208° and 204°.

2. [redacted] submarine chaser [redacted] was observed at position 60°2'N/29°17'E.

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Description: flush deck, 1 stack, 1 gun mounted on the forecastle, and depth charge chute on the quarter deck.

Comment. The statement that the cruiser [redacted] of the KIROV Class, ran ahead in the fairway to Kronstadt/Leningrad, near Leningrad light vessel is unusual. It is assumed that the vessel ran in more northern direction. The observation of submarine chaser [redacted] presumably of the KRONSTADT Class, is probably connected with the exercise firing.

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The battery located ashore presumably belongs to the defenses near Pulkova.

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